

EDCompass newsletter

News and resources for educators using SMART products

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome

If you're reading this month's issue online, then you're in for a digital treat! We've taken our usual PDF version of the newsletter and infused it with interactive Flash®-based mediums that mimic the experience of a glossy print magazine. Now, you can even flip the pages of and read *EDCompass*™ newsletter on any mobile device. Of course, the printable PDF version is still available if that's what you prefer. All you need to do is select the option that converts the format back to PDF. It's that simple!

If you're attending the [International Society for Technology in Education \(ISTE\)](#) Annual Conference and Exposition in Philadelphia this year, you can pick up a print version of this issue, which is loaded with information about what you'll find and experience at SMART's booth. And, if you complete our reader survey on [page 4](#), you could win a [SMART Slate™ wireless slate](#). Also, this month's [product spotlight](#) features Mixed Reality Tools for the SMART Document Camera™, which isn't launching until summer 2011, but you can see it first at our booth at ISTE.

As always, you can e-mail any questions or feedback about *EDCompass* newsletter or the [blog](#) to newsletters@smarttech.com.

THIS MONTH'S POLL

Which personal mobile devices do your students use in the classroom?

[Vote now](#)

NANCY'S NOTES

A Tipping Point



More than 35 percent of U.S. classrooms have an interactive whiteboard. In the UK, the number is over 70 percent, and in Canada, it's over 25 percent. In these countries, virtually 100 percent of schools – and most classrooms – are connected to the Internet. Classroom computers are commonplace, and many teachers personally own multiple computing or mobile devices.

So the question isn't whether technology is here to stay or if it has a place in education. Instead, the question is about the best way to use it to achieve the desired educational outcomes. Do students need computers for every learning activity? No – sometimes students need to discuss a thought-provoking question with other students. Is an interactive whiteboard the only technology product that teachers need in the classroom? No – but it could be a good place to start.

It's time to move from a questioning stage to one of productive consideration about the ways technology products can be used to engage all learners and help them develop skills that will serve them well in today's rapidly changing, global environment.

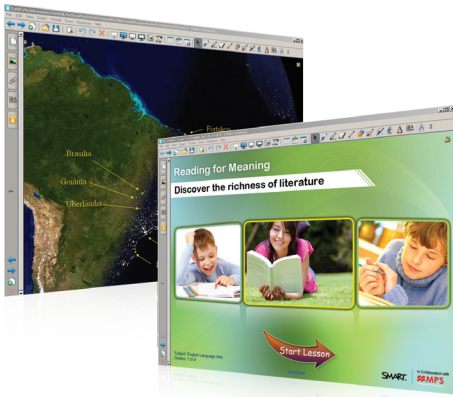
For years, teachers have been thinking holistically about what needs to be accomplished and the right tools to get the desired outcome. There is now a critical mass of teachers with enough experience with new technology tools and the perspective on how to achieve the desired results that we are at a real tipping point. We have moved beyond *if* to *how*.

Yes, there are challenges across education and there are undoubtedly changes ahead, but consider the opportunity for meaningful evolution and transformation.

I hope that you can use the summer to refresh and prepare for an exciting new school year – one where you don't just observe the change, but you can be the change.

[Nancy Knowlton](#) is the CEO and co-founder of SMART Technologies.

SMART Notebook™ Lesson Activities



Find a comprehensive database of [K–12 lesson activities](#) on the SMART Exchange™ website. The activities, many of which are standards correlated, are created by classroom teachers or SMART’s team of curriculum resource developers.

Try one of the following with your geography, science or English students.

Compound Words

Pre-K and kindergarten students can be introduced to the concept of compound words.

June Hidden Pix

Pre-K–3 students can learn to use the Erase tool to uncover events and activities that take place in June.

Continents of the World

Geography students in grades 2–4 can learn about the seven continents.

Planets

Fourth-grade science students can learn about the phases of the moon, relative size and location of the planets, and why we have different seasons and day and night.

Discover the Richness of Literature

English students in grades 7–9 can read one of Shakespeare’s sonnets and learn about the richness of the language.

Visit SMART at ISTE 2011



June 26–29

Pennsylvania Convention Center

Philadelphia, PA

Booth 1403

ISTE is considered the most comprehensive educational technology event for teachers, technology coordinators, library media specialists and administrators in North America. And SMART is attending again this year as a tier-one sponsor.

If you’re attending the conference, join us at booth 1403. We’re excited to show you our latest products, including our newest ultra-short-throw projector that virtually eliminates shadows and glare, and the SMART Document Camera with Mixed Reality Tools, which is featured in the product spotlight on [pages 6 and 7](#).

While at our booth, you can attend any number of presentations to learn new and practical ways to use your SMART products in the classroom. Our presentations offer an excellent opportunity for hands-on demonstrations from SMART representatives about classroom technology. In the SMART Room 204c, we’ll also have a full lineup of presentations from [SMART Exemplary Educators](#), who will share their ideas for engaging students across all subjects and grade levels. After each session, you’ll have an opportunity to connect with these teachers and SMART staff.

Be sure you’ve visited our booth by 3:30 p.m. on June 27 and 28 and by 12:30 p.m. on June 29 to enter the daily draw for a chance to win a SMART product for your classroom or school. You must pick up a SMART T-shirt and a ticket from the reception staff. If your ticket number is picked and you’re wearing your SMART T-shirt, then you’re a winner!

Social media

If you aren’t attending ISTE, you can still receive timely information about our product announcements and launches, find out who is speaking on what topics and learn about other exciting happenings at SMART’s booth. Check out the [EDCompass blog](#), SMART’s [Twitter™ feed](#), [SMART’s Facebook page](#) and the [ISTE.CommunityNing](#) for regular updates.

We hope to see you there – either virtually or in person!

New Products Showcased at ISTE 2011

If you're attending ISTE this year, visit SMART at booth 1403 to explore our wide range of easy-to-use, integrated products designed to enhance whole-class, small-group and individual learning. Following is a peek at just a few of the new products you will find at our booth.



The **SMART UF75 projector** is our first projector that's both 3D- and high definition (HD)-ready, meaning it can display 3D lesson content and HD video, and offers an HDMI input. Compatible with both standard and widescreen SMART Board™ 600 series and 800 series interactive whiteboards, this ultra-short-throw projector also features improved shadow reduction, enhanced brightness and crisper images with high contrast and color quality.

You can also see the **SMART Response™ VE interactive response system**. The newest model in the **SMART Response line** works on any Internet-enabled device, such as iPads, smart phones, iPods, laptops and computers.



You can always learn more about these and other new products that we'll be showcasing at ISTE, such as the latest versions of **SMART Sync™ classroom management software** and **SMART Classroom Suite™ interactive learning software**, by visiting our website. We've also made changes to the SMART Document Camera by adding a new feature called Mixed Reality Tools, which you can read about in this month's product spotlight on [pages 6 and 7](#).

The ARRA Deadline Is September 30. How Are You Spending Your Funds?



SMART has a wealth of information on how you can use your ARRA funds to purchase SMART products to improve learning outcomes and foster deeper engagement in your classroom.

Visit [SMART's ARRA website](#) to find customer stories, research material and other resources.

SMART Response Question Sets



Find a database of **SMART Response question sets** on the SMART Exchange website. The majority of the questions are correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards.

Try one of the following SMART Response question sets with your math, science and social studies students.

Division Stories

Second-grade math students can explore situations that require equal sharing or making equal groups of things.

How Plants Grow!

Science students in grades 3–5 can review photosynthesis and parts of a plant, while revisiting concepts.

Factors and Multiples

Fifth- and sixth-grade math students can test their knowledge of prime and composite numbers, prime factorization, greatest common factor and the least common multiple.

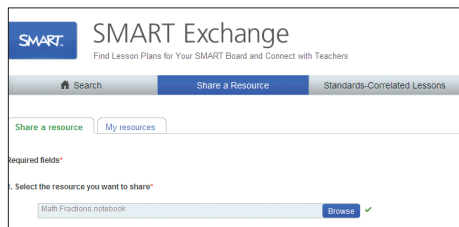
Advances in Artistic Development during the Renaissance

Social studies students in grades 7–9 can test their ability to understand the artistic and philosophical advances that occurred during the Renaissance.

Jeff's SMART Notebook Tips

Every other month in this column, you'll find a new tip from Jeff Taylor, Product Manager for **SMART Notebook software**. This month, Jeff explains different ways you can share your SMART Notebook files.

Post to the SMART Exchange website



Post your ready-made SMART Notebook files at exchange.smarttech.com by clicking on *Share a Resource*. If you are not a member of the SMART Exchange website, it's easy and free to [join](#) this growing community of educators. Once you become a member, follow the on-screen instructions to share your SMART Notebook files with your peers.

E-mail and share files using the SMART Notebook Express™ web application



Did you know that you can share your SMART Notebook files with anyone, even people who don't have SMART Notebook software on their computer? All they need is the **SMART Notebook Express web application**. Just save the .notebook file to a computer and then go to express.smarttech.com/# to view, save and interact with the file. Anyone can [download](#) SMART Notebook Express for Windows®, Mac and Linux® operating systems.

Take Our Survey and Enter to Win a SMART Slate Wireless Slate

Each month, thousands of teachers rely on *EDCompass* newsletter for its insightful articles, high-quality classroom content, practical best practices, helpful tips and exciting new product information. We want to give you an opportunity to tell us how we're doing in a short reader survey. Your feedback is important, and it will ensure we continue to provide relevant and valuable information to help you and your peers use SMART products in innovative ways.

To thank you for taking the time to complete the survey, you can enter for a chance to win a **SMART Slate wireless slate** for your school. Before you [fill out the survey](#), please read and accept the [terms and conditions](#) for your chance to win.

You have until July 29, 2011, to qualify for our prize draw. [Fill out the survey now](#) for your chance to win.

Congratulations to Our Winner!

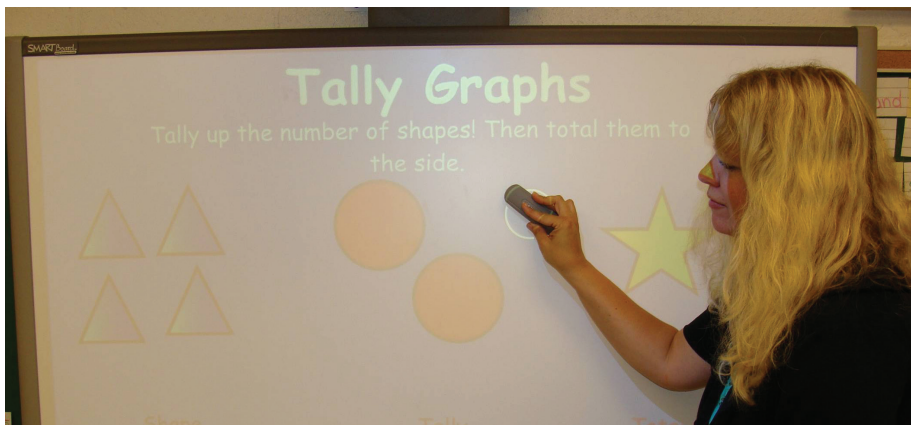
Congratulations to Stephanie Erbes of Coleridge-Taylor Montessori Elementary in Louisville, Kentucky. Stephanie is the winner of a contest we ran in the *EDCompass blog* this past spring. As the winner, she will receive a **SMART Document Camera** valued at US\$799.

Thanks to everyone who participated. Keep reading the blog and *EDCompass newsletter* for upcoming opportunities to win a SMART product for your school.

Subscribe to the [RSS feed](#) now to receive up-to-the minute information from SMART.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Reaching Their True Potential



Exceptional students. For the teachers who work with them, the term is fitting. Although they are often defined by their achievements or challenges – or in some cases, both – what's truly exceptional about these students are their unique views and needs when it comes to learning, and the impact their presence has on the classroom. [Read the full article.](#)

2011 National Teacher of the Year



Last month, Michelle Shearer, a high school chemistry teacher in Frederick, Maryland, was named the 2011 **National Teacher of the Year**, the highest honor a teacher in the United States can receive, for her dedication to helping students develop to their full potential. President Barack Obama recognized Shearer for this significant accomplishment during a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House, where he also honored all 55 of the 2011 **National State Teachers of the Year**.

Shearer currently teaches advanced placement chemistry at Urbana High School in the Frederick County Public Schools system. In her 10 years at the school, she has taught all levels of chemistry. Previously, she taught high school chemistry and math at the Maryland School for the Deaf in Frederick.

For their tireless contributions to education, we congratulate Michelle and all the State Teachers of the Year, who receive technology products from SMART in support of their achievements.

Does Your School Have What It Takes?

Your school can apply to become a SMART Showcase School and be recognized for using SMART education solutions to create extraordinary learning environments and for informing educators from other schools about the benefits of implementing SMART products.

Visit [our website](#) to learn more about becoming a SMART Showcase School and District and to find out if your school meets the application requirements.

You can also read [profiles](#) on our website about various SMART Showcase Schools and Districts, like the one you see in the column below.

SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

Focus on Students Means Success for Pittsburgh School



When it comes to unlocking potential in students, the staff at Propel Braddock Hills takes a unique approach – try anything and see if it works. [Read the full article.](#)

SMART Accredited Content and Software



The **SMART Software and Content Accreditation Program** encourages third-party publishers to develop software and content that integrate with SMART products. This ensures you have access to additional digital content that's compatible with your SMART products.

Accreditation titles are based on the software or content's level of integration with SMART products in three categories – Standard, Premium and Elite.

Following are a few of our newest titles to consider.

Force

Science students in grades 3–8 can learn about force in this Elite Accredited title from **Classroom Complete Press**. Students can explore the different kinds of force with this 80-screen digital lesson plan, and then complete a comprehensive quiz using the SMART Response system.

Mathville Middle School

Math students in grades 6–8 can hone their math skills with this Standard Accredited title from **Ingenuity Works**. Everything from work to sports is filled with math problems and fun.

Analyzing Data

With this Premium Accredited title from **IPMG Publishing**, math students in grades 8–12 can get acquainted with analyzing and applying sets of data using a graphing calculator.

Fast Facts



- **Integrated with SMART Notebook software** – Add 3D content and animations directly into your SMART Notebook lessons. The software recognizes 3D content in collada, .obj or .fbx formats.
- **Flexible** – Interact with 3D objects using a single cube held under your SMART Document Camera 330. The cube itself doesn't contain any 3D content, so you can interact with any 3D content or animation by using the cube to 'grab' it right in SMART Notebook software.
- **Intuitive** – Start using Mixed Reality Tools right away. The new feature has automatic mode switching – you can switch from regular mode to Mixed Reality mode just by placing the cube under the SMART Document Camera.
- **Visual and interactive** – Manipulate your 3D content by holding and rotating the cube under the SMART Document Camera to rotate the digital object, or by interacting with it on your SMART Board interactive whiteboard
- **Future-ready** – Offer your students opportunities to use emerging educational content. There are many free online repositories, such as the Google™ 3D Warehouse, that contain relevant lesson content.

Lessons in Depth – Discover Mixed Reality Tools for the SMART Document Camera

Exploring the ocean floor. Spinning around the Eiffel Tower. Launching a catapult.

Using the new SMART Document Camera with Mixed Reality Tools, lessons can seem more like adventures. This new feature adds 3D capabilities to the [SMART Document Camera 330](#), so complex or abstract concepts are more understandable, tangible and engaging.

All you need is your SMART Document Camera 330, [SMART Notebook collaborative learning software](#) and a special cube.



A captivating experience

We first introduced you to the mixed reality feature in the [August 2010, EDCompass newsletter](#). In summer 2011, this feature will be available, along with the cube, sample 3D content and a new version of SMART Notebook software.

The cube itself doesn't contain 3D content. Instead, it acts as an instrument for 'grabbing' 3D content already available in SMART Notebook software. You can interact with the selected 3D object or animation simply by holding and rotating the cube under the SMART Document Camera. This hands-on approach is particularly engaging for tactile and visual learners.

To add 3D content or animations to a lesson, you can either import a 3D file from your computer or drag the content from the Gallery in SMART Notebook software. Then switch to Mixed Reality mode by placing the cube under the SMART Document Camera and selecting *Mixed Reality* in the View menu or pressing the mixed reality icon in the document camera widget.

Deeper engagement

SMART offers a sample pack of 3D content, and in addition, you'll find thousands of free 3D models and animations in the [Google 3D Warehouse](#). You can also create your own 3D content using [Google SketchUp™](#) sketching software.

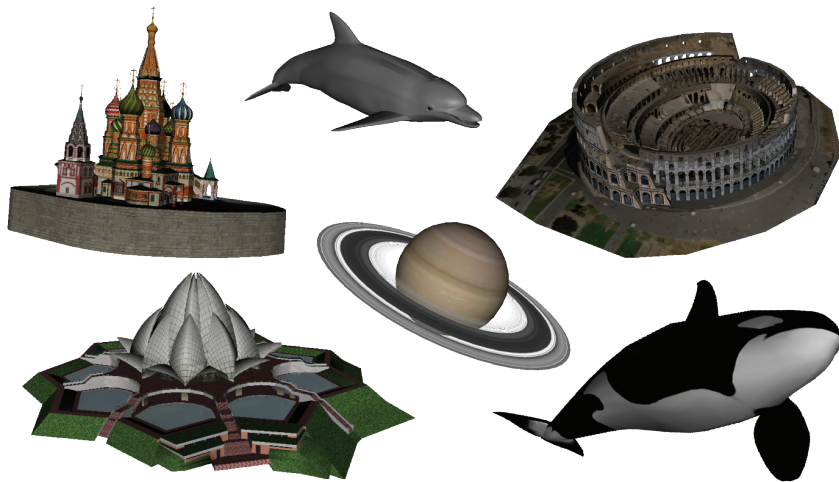
Because Mixed Reality Tools is integrated with SMART Notebook software, you and your students can easily explore 3D content on your [SMART Board interactive whiteboard](#). You can change the size of your object, write over it and rotate it on its X, Y or Z axis. Mixed reality also enables you to add labels or zoom in to explore a 3D scene, such as the interior of a castle, in more detail.

To learn more about Mixed Reality Tools and discover how you can make abstract or conceptual lessons become more vital, understandable and engaging, visit smarttech.com/mixedreality.

Current SMART Document Camera 330 users

In summer 2011, your authorized reseller will be contacting you about how to get started with Mixed Reality Tools. He or she will provide you with a cube, a new version of SMART Notebook software and a sample pack of 3D content. If you have questions, please send an e-mail to resellers@smarttech.com.

First Impressions of Mixed Reality Tools



Mixed Reality Tools for the SMART Document Camera will be available in summer 2011, but Jennifer Gakis has already started experimenting with it in her classroom.

Gakis, an [AISL teacher](#) at [Father Doucet Elementary School](#) in Calgary, Canada, has been participating in a trial of the new SMART Document Camera, sampling lessons that incorporate Mixed Reality Tools and content from the Google 3D Warehouse. So far, she says, she's been impressed with the new feature.

"To me, the greatest value of the Mixed Reality Tools is allowing the students to interact with objects and the world in a way that isn't possible in a standard classroom set up," Gakis says.

"In one of the lessons SMART generated, there were many examples of famous landmarks. None of the students had ever visited those landmarks before, so to be able to interact with them and turn them around and flip them over immediately got their attention," she adds.

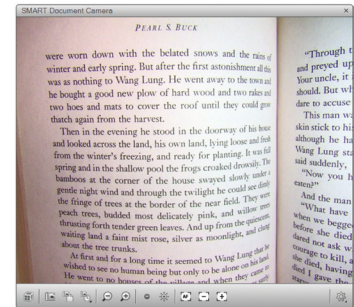
Gakis has tested the mixed reality feature with a classroom of first-graders. She says that initially the students were unsure about interacting with 3D content on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard, but by the second lesson, the majority of them had mastered manipulating the cube and the content.

"One lesson I did with a grade-one class was 30 minutes long, and I can honestly say that for 22 of those 30 minutes those kids were interested, excited and focused, which doesn't happen with that age group often. Usually, at the most, you can get 10 minutes of focus," she says.

A subject that Gakis believes will benefit greatly from Mixed Reality Tools is science.

"The ability to generate realistic models for students to interact with is fantastic," she says. "In some classrooms we can be very limited in what materials we can access. With the mixed reality, I was able to have the students manipulate planets and solar systems. I think as the technology gets more advanced, the possibilities will become endless."

What's New with the SMART Document Camera?



In addition to the Mixed Reality Tools feature, the SMART Document Camera 330 has a new user interface to make it more intuitive to use and more beneficial in the classroom.

Here's what else is new:

- **Interval feature** – This feature acts like a time-lapse camera, enabling you to take up to 500 shots at regular intervals. Imagine the possibilities for your next biology experiment!
- **Improved icon design** – The icons at the bottom of the document camera software interface have been redesigned to better communicate their function
- **Mixed Reality button** – Instantly switch into Mixed Reality mode by pressing the icon of a 3D square on the document camera widget
- **ToolTips** – Now when you hover over the icons, you'll see [ToolTips](#) describing what each icon means

These improvements to the SMART Document Camera 330 will be available in summer 2011 with the launch of a new version of SMART Notebook software.

Up Next

Watch for a short update issue over the summer to keep you informed about what's going on at SMART. You'll receive the regular six-page, back-to-school issue in August.

The *EDCompass* Blog

Where ideas spread



Discover the *EDCompass* blog – it offers up-to-date news from SMART and inspiration from other educators. You can also post comments and share stories you like with your own social networks.

You'll find articles on a variety of topics, including

- Opinions from experts in classroom technology and education
- Experiences of educators from around the world
- The latest resources on the SMART Exchange website
- Spotlights on new education products and programs

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